

Torrance, California
August 4, 1931.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE.

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Torrance, was held in the Council Chambers at Torrance, California, August 4th., 1931, and was called to order at 7:45 P. M. by Mayor Dennis.

The following Trustees were present: Trustees: Bell, Nelson, Smith, Steiner and Dennis.

Absent: Trustees: None.

Trustee Steiner moved that the minutes of July 21st., 1931, be adopted.

Trustee Smith seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from Frank F. Merriam, Long Beach, under date of July 31st., 1931, acknowledging message of sympathy from the City Council in his recent bereavement.

Trustee Steiner moved that the City Clerk be instructed to acknowledge receipt of the communication.

Trustee Nelson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the County of Los Angeles Welfare Association, under date of July 22nd., 1931, addressed to Mr. A. H. Bartlett, City Clerk, in answer to his inquiry over the phone, and giving a brief outline of the plan by which men are given an opportunity to work out the amount of aid given by doing City Work of some kind. The only expense to the City being the clerical work necessary to keep an accounting of the labor performed and the Compensation Insurance which will be necessary to carry.

After some discussion, Trustee Smith moved that the proposition of the County Welfare Association be accepted.

Trustee Bell seconded the motion, which was duly carried by the

following roll call vote:

AYES: TRUSTEES: Bell, Nelson, Smith, Steiner and Dennis.
 NOES: " None.
 ABSENT: " None.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the Los Angeles County League of Municipalities, Huntington Park, California, under date of July 31st., 1931, addressed to the Honorable City Council, and stating that the above organization has been formed for the purpose of rendering mutual benefit to the cities of Los Angeles County, and wish to solicit the City of Torrance to affiliate with them and assist in the development of the program and work of the organization.

There was no action taken on this communication.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from Mr. J. R. Ross, 6327 Hood Avenue, Huntington Park, California, under date of July 29th., 1931, addressed to the Honorable City Council of Torrance, applying for a permit which will allow his agents to solicit advertisements within the City of Torrance to be published in a property owners directory which he is contemplating on publishing and where property may be advertised for sale.

Trustee Nelson moved that the communication be tabled.

Trustee Smith seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from Thos. J. Whelan, Inc., 818 Integrity Building, Philadelphia, Pa., under date of July 25th., 1931, and addressed to the City Council, in which they ask that the City of Torrance purchase a bronze bust of George Washington, in celebration of the approaching 200th. anniversary of his birth, \$500.00 to be paid upon order and the balance of \$2000.00 upon delivery.

There was no action taken on this communication

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from Road Commissioner George W. Jones, Los Angeles, California, under date of July 23rd., 1931, addressed to the Honorable City Council, requesting consent of the City Council relative to certain improvements contemplated by the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County under cash Contract along Beryl Street and Dominguez Street.

Attorney Briney read:

RESOLUTION NO. 506.

GRANTING CONSENT TO THE COUNTY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT
 OF BERYL STREET AND DOMINGUEZ STREET.

Trustee Steiner moved that Resolution No. 506 be adopted.

Trustee Smith seconded the motion, which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: TRUSTEES: Bell, Nelson, Smith, Steiner and Dennis.
 NOES: " None.
 ABSENT: " None.

Clerk Bartlett read a protest from a Mr. Kent, in regard to the ice cream wagon that passes through the streets in Torrance, and as he and several other men sleep days the ringing of the bell is very annoying and they are unable to sleep.

Trustee Steiner suggested that the City Clerk get the addresses of the men who sleep in the daytime and give them to the driver of the ice cream wagon, so that he can stop ringing the bell when he passes by their neighborhood.

Clerk Bartlett stated that he had a Quit Claim Deed from the Dominguez Land Corporation, and would like to have a Resolution passed so that it might be recorded.

Engineer Leonard stated that this was a Quit Claim Deed granting to the City of Torrance a portion of Santa Clara Street. It was passed to the City in 1927 and was not recorded. It being held because of an encroachment on a lot upon which there was a building. He stated that this deed should be recorded.

Attorney Briney read:

RESOLUTION NO. 507.

ACCEPTING DEED FROM THE DOMINGUEZ LAND CORPORATION, DATED
FEBRUARY 18th, 1927.

Trustee Steiner moved that Resolution No. 507 be adopted.

Trustee Smith seconded the motion, which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: TRUSTEES: Bell, Nelson, Smith, Steiner and Dennis.

NOES: " None.

ABSENT: " None.

Clerk Bartlett read a petition addressed to the Honorable City Council, asking that the City Council enact such an ordinance as will make it obligatory for all retail grocers in the City of Torrance to close their stores all day on Sundays and Holidays. This petition was signed by eight independent grocers of this City.

Attorney Briney stated that he had looked the matter up and that an ordinance which was requested, he believed would be unconstitutional because it singles out one class of store or business.

After considerable discussion on this question, Trustee Steiner moved that the City Attorney have a report prepared at the next regular meeting.

Trustee Bell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Trustee Steiner moved that the petition be filed for future reference.

Trustee Smith seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett read a petition addressed to the Board of Trustees of the City of Torrance, signed by twelve citizens, requesting the Council to continue the publication of the minutes of its meetings in as conspicuous a place as possible, because they believe it is a convenience and service to the general public who are unable to attend each meeting, are entitled, and the small cost of publication is more than justified by the benefits derived from their publication.

Trustee Smith moved that this be referred to the Council as a whole who are working on the budget at the present time.

Trustee Bell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The City Attorney reported that the hearing on motion of defendant X to strike from the complaint of the plaintiff certain paragraphs in the case of Wilcox against the City of Torrance (being suit to enjoin issuance of bonds for new water system) had been continued one week from its original date of setting but had not been argued on date to which it was continued for the reason that on said date Attorney Steary representing the plaintiff and attorneys Beebe, and Briney representing the defendants had held a conference as a result of which an attorney for plaintiff had agreed to amend the complaint above mentioned and left out most of the objectionable parts which the attorneys for the City had requested the court to strike out of such complaint; that the amended complaint was to be filed the first part of this week and if it is not on file at this time we expect it to be filed within the next day or two. He further reported that no time had been lost by the conference and probably several days or a week had actually been gained because the time allowed the plaintiff to amend was no longer than the court would have allowed after making a decision on the motion to strike, which decision, because of the new questions involved and the importance of them probably would not have been given for several days after the hearing.

He further reported that as soon as the amended complaint was received the next step would be for the attorneys for the City to decide whether to demur or make another motion to strike out portions of the complaint or whether to accept the complaint; but that he believed the changes to be made would make unnecessary any motion to strike anything further from the complaint and that it was hoped that the matter could then be decided on a demurrer. Such demurrer would be a legal objection by the City that a complaint even though it were true as to the facts therein contained, does not state facts sufficient to institute a cause for action. If the matter can be safely heard on demurrer it will save waiting several weeks for trial if the hearing on the demurrer would come up within a few days while a trial of the case itself might not be obtained for two or three months.

The final reading of Ordinance No. 221, "Amending Ordinance No. 175", reference Mr. Quandt's Franchise, was laid over till the next regular meeting.

Clerk Bartlett reported that there were no objections or protests filed in his office for the closing up and vacating of streets in Tract No. 10321 under proceedings instituted under Resolution of Intention No. 500 adopted June 16th, 1931, also he reported that notice has been completed by publication and posted on July 10th, 1931, and that more than ten days has expired since such completion.

Trustee Bell introduced:

ORDINANCE NO. 223.

CLOSING UP AND VACATING STREETS IN TRACT NO. 10321.

Attorney Briney did not report with reference to suit in Tract No. 9306.

Engineer Leonard reported with reference to sidewalks across the Santa Fe tracks on Sonoma Street in this city that the fill across the tracks has been made and they are ready to put down a temporary walk, something that will be suitable and at very little expense.

Engineer Leonard reported that he had taken up with the Board of Education the matter of the City paying the entire expense of the sewer for same together with the necessary expense of paving, sidewalks and curbs, and stated to them that there might be some way by which the Board of Education might pay the entire expense and the City do the work. Engineer Leonard expects to hear from them in the near future.

Engineer Leonard presented the map of the Street Opening District No. 1 of the City of Torrance showing the improvement of Sepulveda Boulevard and Hawthorne Avenue.

Trustee Steiner moved that the Map of Street Opening District No. 1 showing the improvement of Sepulveda Boulevard and Hawthorne Avenue, submitted by the City Engineer, be accepted and approved and filed in the office of the City Engineer.

Trustee Smith seconded the motion, which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	TRUSTEES:	Bell, Nelson, Smith, Steiner and Dennis.
NOES:	"	None.
ABSENT:	"	None.

Trustee Bell introduced:

ORDINANCE NO. 224.

Attorney Briney suggested that the City Council adjourn to some evening next week when they adjourn, as there are quite a few new laws going into effect on August 14th, 1931, which will increase the expense and delay the proceedings for some time, if this Ordinance is not published before that time. If the Ordinance is passed at an adjourned regular meeting next week it can be published in the Torrance Herald on Thursday of next week and thus avoid much delay and added expense.

Trustee Steiner moved that the Street Superintendent be instructed to purchase ten (10) tons of hay.

Trustee Smith seconded the motion, which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	TRUSTEES:	Bell, Nelson, Smith, Steiner and Dennis.
NOES:	"	None.
ABSENT:	"	None.

Trustee Smith stated that he had two communications from the Automobile Club of Southern California, in which they suggest the necessary signs to be erected in this City under the new laws which will go into effect August 14th, 1931, and the cost of same. These changes will have to be made by the above mentioned date.

Trustee Smith moved that the request be complied with and purchase order given them.

Trustee Steiner seconded the motion, which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	TRUSTEES:	Bell, Nelson, Smith, Steiner and Dennis.
NOES:	"	None.
ABSENT:	"	None.

Trustee Steiner moved that warrants be drawn, for all bills, properly audited.

Trustee Nelson seconded the motion, which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: TRUSTEES: Bell, Nelson, Smith, Steiner and Dennis.

NOES: " None.

ABSENT: " None.

At 10:15 P. M. Trustee Smith moved that the meeting be adjourned to Monday night, the 10th of August, 1931, at 7:45 P. M.

Trustee Steiner seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 P. M.

A. H. Bartlett
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved:

John Dennis
Mayor of the City of Torrance